

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W

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R 241245Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5464

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 9405

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, PINT

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S JULY 14 SPEECH ON UN, JIDDA'S FOREIGN
MINISTERS CONFERENCE AND INTERNAL LEBANESE SITUATION

REF: STATE 170841

1. CALLED THIS MORNING, JULY 24, ON FOREIGN MINISTER
TAQLA AND LEFT WITH HIM TEN PAGE SUMMARY IN FRENCH OF
SECRETARY'S JULY 14 SPEECH AT MILWAUKEE. I SUGGESTED
HE MIGHT WISH TO READ SUMMARY AND WE COULD THEN
DISCUSS IT AT HIS LEISURE. TAQLA SAID HE WOULD DO SO.

2. HE THEN RAISED JIDDA FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING.
SAID ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WAS ACCOMPLISHED OTHER THAN
ARAB POSITION ON ISRAEL AND THE UN. HE ASKED ME WHAT I
THOUGHT OF IT AND I TOLD HIM. TAQLA AGREED. I
THEN ASKED HIM WHY HE WENT ALONG WITH SUCH A SUICIDAL
ARAB ATTITUDE. TAQLA BRISTLED, INDICATING THAT
IF EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, TURKEY AND IRAN TOOK A POSITION
WE SHOULD NEVER EXPECT THE LEBANON, AS LONG AS HE IS
FOREIGN MINISTER, TO OBJECT. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT THIS
WAS TRAGIC, FOR THE JIDDA MEETING CERTAINLY CLEARLY
INDICATED THE ARAB BANDWAGON PSYCHOLOGY THAT ONLY COULD
SERVE TO DEFEAT BASIC ARAB OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA.
TAQLA SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS.

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3. WE THEN DISCUSSED CURRENT LEBANESE SITUATION AND WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE. FORTUNATELY, TAQLA APPEARED TO SHOW MORE GUMPTION RE INTERNAL LEBANESE MATTERS THAN IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.. HE DESCRIBED AS INCREDIBLE WHAT HE HAS FOUND IN HIS OTHER MINISTRIES -- EDUCATION AND PLANNING. THE LATTER IS TOTALLY INOPERATIVE AND THE FORMER IS RIDDLED, NOT ONLY WITH INCOMPETENCE, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, ACCORDING TO TAQLA, BY LEFT-WINGERS IN THE STATE SCHOOLS. TAQLA SAID HE HAD NO REPEAT NO IDEA OF HOW FAR POLITICAL "ROTTENESS" HAD SPREAD IN STATE SCHOOLS. HE HAS FOUND NOT ONLY OUT AND OUT COMMUNIST TEACHERS BUT NIHILISTS, MAOISTS, ETC. TEACHING YOUNG PEOPLE AND IN SOME CASES EVEN CONDUCTING MILITARY EXERCISES. TAQLA DOESN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT ASSURED ME HE WOULD DO SOMETHING.

4. TAQLA ASKED ME ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF HAND GUN IMPORTATION INTO LEBANON (SEPTTEL) AND I TRIED TO EXHLAIN IT. TAQLA THEN DISMISSED IT AS OF NO IMPORTANCE, TO WHICH I SAID "INSHA'LLAH".
GODLEY

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